# Section 508 Unified Approach

## Unified compliance testing across federal agencies and how it can improve accessibility for PWD's: helping project managers, vendors, and developers deliver compliant products

# Today's Presentation

- Turn off your ringtones and notifications
- Use the microphone
  - We will bring it to you
- Introduce yourself when speaking
  - "I'm Norman from Department of State"
- Open discussion: **on schedule!**
  - Presenters are available for later discussions
  - Your perspective is valuable if you contribute!

# Testing In Consistency

- The need for testing: how do you know?
- Consistent, repeatable processes!
- Who is responsible for compliance?
  - Conformance?
  - Products or end-user support?
- Key Benefits:
  - Prevents the need for remediation
  - Enables tracking of defects and remediation fixes

# Section 508 background

- Published in Dec 2000
- Incorporated into Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in June 2001

- 508 Refresh

# What's being tested?

- Web sites

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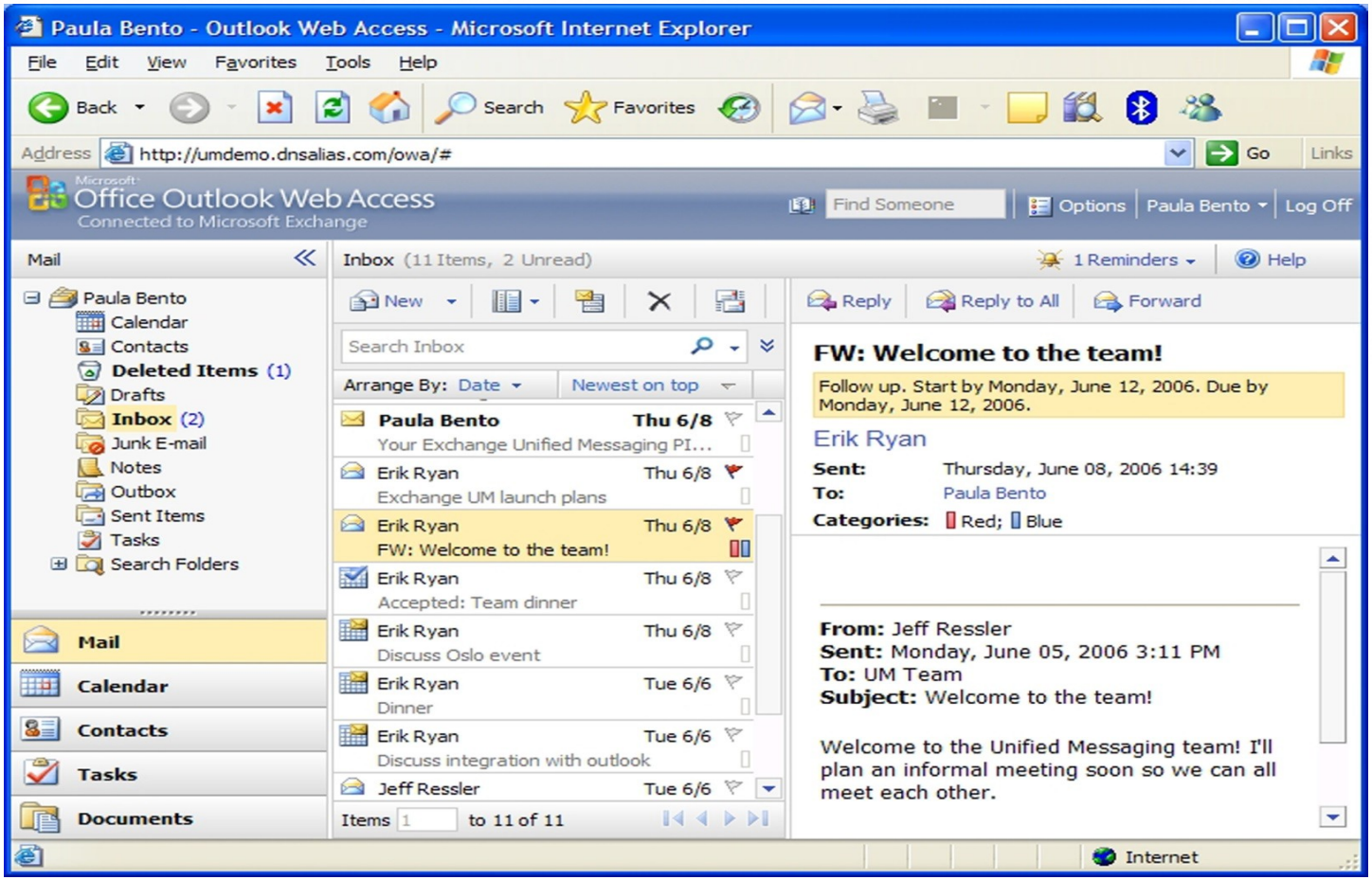
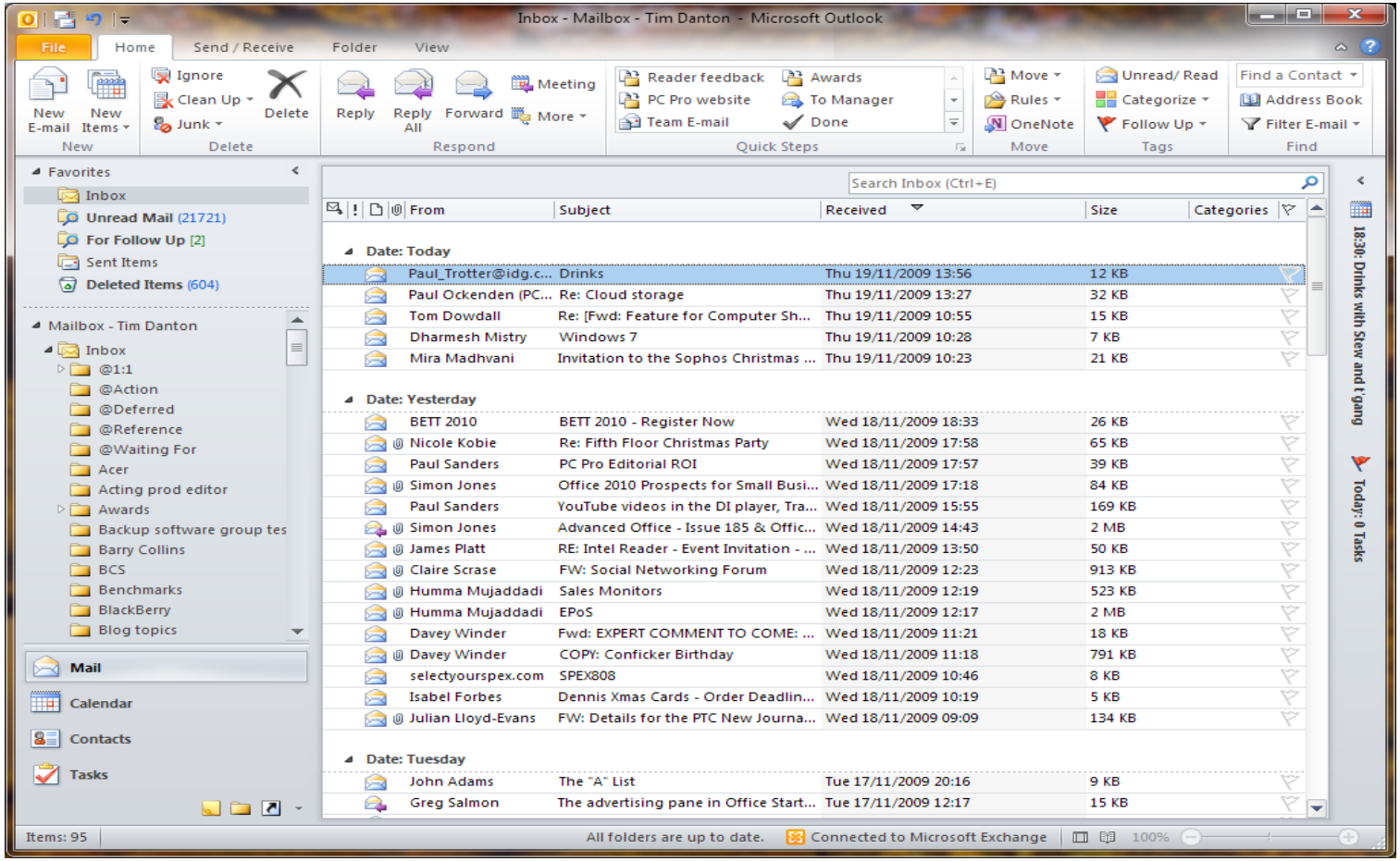
# What's being tested?

- Web Applications



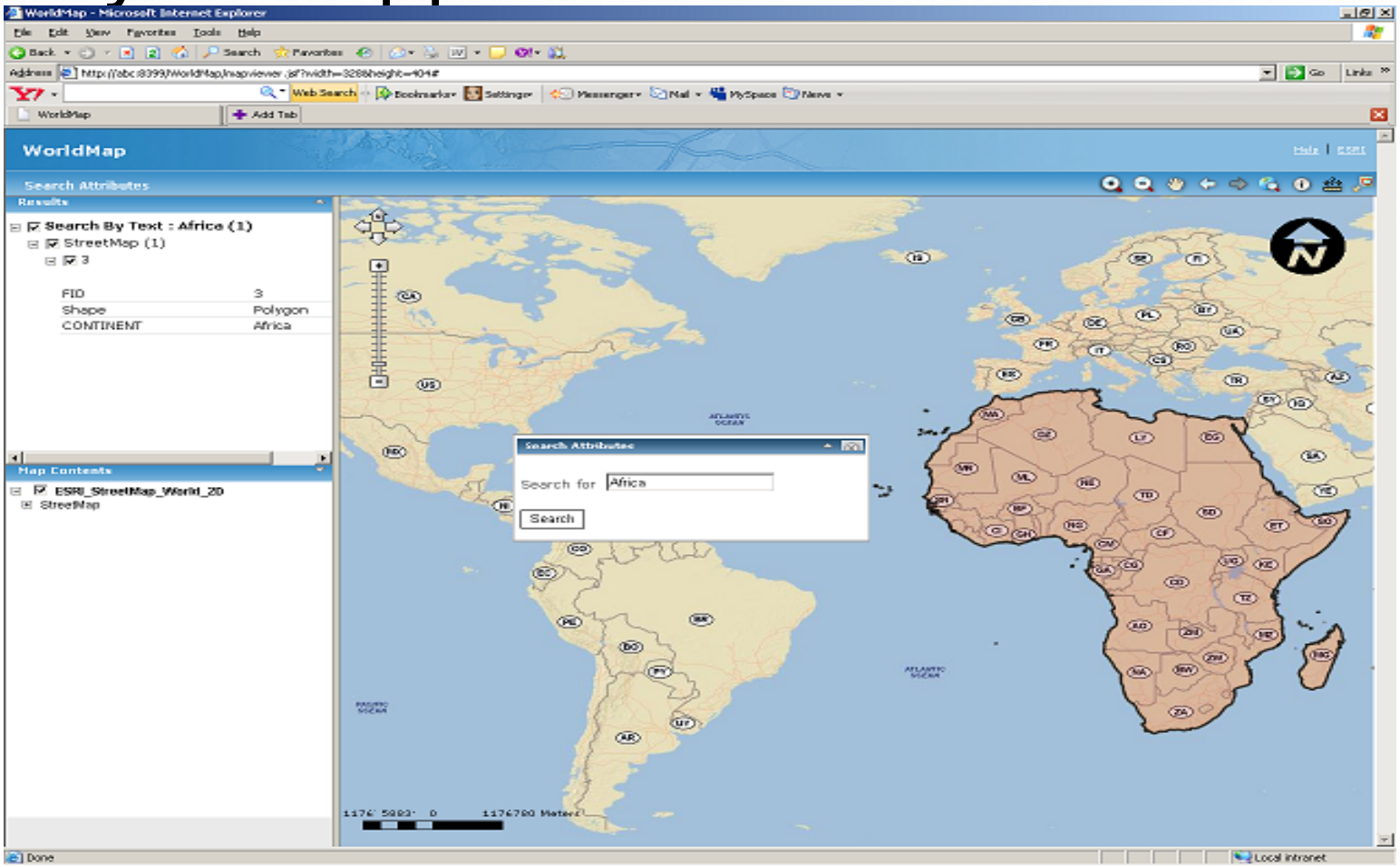
# What's being tested?

- Software Applications



# What's being tested?

- Hybrid Applications



# What's being tested?

- Web sites
- Web Applications
- Software Applications
- Hybrid Applications
- ***Anything running on a desktop PC***

# How to test for 508 Compliance?

# Different Approaches, Different Results

- Different results for the same standard

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- Unable to accept other's results
- Mixed messages for vendors and

# Develop DHS Testing

- Establish a 508 test process for OAST testers
- Create reliable and *repeatable* test results
  - Using documented procedures
  - Easy to use testing tools
  - Minimize subjectivity
  - Consistently document test results

# DHS Test Process: In the beginning…

- Code inspection tools and JAWS combo
- Worked well in small group of testers
  - Full time 508 testers
  - Cubicle collaboration
- Testing Training outside group
  - JAWS is very difficult to learn in 2 days
  - No exam
  - Poor quality test reports from students

# Evolution of Test Process

- Test instructions written for larger training audience
  - Minimize subjective outcomes
  - Easier to use testing tools
- JAWS
  - Differences in JAWS versions affected test results
  - Conflicts with code inspection were won by code inspection
  - Conclusion: JAWS only tested the application's *compatibility with that version of JAWS*
  - Removed after 2 years

# Evolution of Training

- Pre-reqs for SW & Web requirements
- More hands on practice
- Exam
  - “Trusted Tester”
  - Passing grade means tester has acceptable skill level to test and report accurately

# Benefits of a Defined Test Process

- 508 acceptance criteria identified
  - Share with developers and vendors in advance
  - Trusted Tester is required to report results
- Common approach, accept shared results
- Trusted Tester pool to handle testing
  - 205
  - Online TT community forum

# Trusted Tester

# Harmonized Baseline Tests

*"Harmonized Processes for Section 508 Testing: **Baseline** Tests for Software & Web Accessibility"*

- Developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) accessibility teams.
- **The Baseline Tests supports:**
  - Standardized testing for the Section 508 technical requirements for Software, Web, and Functional Performance Criteria (FPC) across government.
  - Provides a **minimum** set of Tests for agencies to streamline/enhance their existing test processes.
  - Aligns Section 508 accessibility testing with most of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) success criteria, in preparation for the upcoming Section

# Harmonized DHS Test Process

*"DHS Section 508 Compliance Test Process for Applications"*

- The test document incorporates the **minimum** baseline tests and steps required to determine compliance with Section 508 requirements.

**<u>The Test process supports:</u>**

- ✓ A unified test approach for Section 508 compliance
- ✓ Documented test procedures
- ✓ Reliable and repeatable test results
- ✓ Easy to use testing tools
- ✓ Minimizes subjectivity

# Expanding TT Beyond DHS

- Pilot: Unified Testing Accessibility Project (UTAP)
- Purpose: DHS helped 4 agencies adopt the TT
  - Agencies were classified as S, M, L, and XL
  - MOUs between DHS and agencies
  - Organizational assessments conducted
  - Assisted agency staff in designing their **own** organizational approach to incorporate TT
  - Formal Implementation Plans Developed

# Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)

- ITTP is based on the DHS TT program
- A strategic solution with a three-pronged approach:
  1. Standardization of the evaluation processes and procedures for 508 testing of EIT.
  2. A certification program for 508 testing inclusive of the standardized evaluation procedures and methodologies.
  3. A central repository available to all agencies that contains all TT test results.

# How to become a Trusted Tester?

A Trusted Tester (TT) is an individual who has taken the required TT training courses **and** who has achieved at least **90%** on the DHS Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam.

**The TT training courses:**

| Course ID | Course Name |
|---|---|
| **FAC 049** | Section 508: What is it and Why is it Important to You? |
| **FAC 050** | Section 508: Tools Installation |
| **FAC 051** | Section 508 Standards for Applications |
| **FTE 250** | Section 508 Trusted Tester Training |
| **FTE** | Section 508 Trusted Tester Certification Exam |

# Trusted Tester Resources

| Resource | Location |
|---|---|
| **DHS Accessibility Help Desk Email** | Accessibility@hq.dhs.gov |
| **DHS Section 508 Compliance Test Process documents:**<br>• ***Baseline Tests for Software and Web***<br>• ***DHS Section 508 Compliance Test Process for Applications*** | http://www.dhs.gov/compliance-test-processes |
| **Trusted Tester training courses**<br><br>**Note:** DAU is for .gov or .mil email addresses; for all others, please contact DHS Accessibility Help Desk to request TT training. | http://www.dau.mil/default.aspx |
| **Interagency Trusted Tester Program (ITTP)** | http://www.dhs.gov/interagencyTTP |

# AED COP

- Accessible Electronic Document Community of Practice (AED COP)
- Started September 2011
- Primary Focus to harmonize requirements to make electronic document Section 508 Conformant
- Have approximately 27 agencies participating

# AED COP

- While all federal agencies are required to post accessible electronic documents, agencies do not have identical standards for creating them. This can cause the following problems:
  - frustration for employees and citizens seeking information
  - confusion for vendors producing accessible documents shared across the federal government and
  - inability of agencies to easily reuse accessibility artifacts.

# AED COP GOALS

- To **increase awareness** of the importance of access to Accessible Electronic Documents across the federal community.
- To **promote successful strategies** which increase the ability of federal employees to create accessible electronic documents.
- To **advance the field of accessibility** for all participating agencies by creating a repository of accessibility artifacts.
- To identify **and improve the alignment** of requirements defining accessible electronic documents across for all participating agencies.
- To promote successful strategies which create the **highest level of accessibility** for documents at the lowest cost.
- To identify and **supply best practices** to the CIO Council Accessibility Committee Best Practices Subcommittee.

# AED COP Resources

- https://www.section508.gov/content/learn/best-practice-library
- Published
  - Word 2010 Baseline, Example Conformance Test Process (Technical), Basic Authoring and Testing Guide (Lay)
- In Development
  - PDF Baseline, Basic Testing Guide
  - PowerPoint, Excel
  - Training Videos

# Questions?

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